(c) if so, the outlines of the constitution of this fund;

(d) the kind of training proposed to be provided to Indian labourers under the same; and

(e) the amount that would be incurred on the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A suggestion was made for Constitution of International Skill Development Fund in the recently organized International Labour Conference. It was proposed to create this fund so that resources from the developed world could be mobilized to assist developing countries in their own efforts of skill development.

(c) to (e) Do not arise at this stage.

Protection of interest of Indian business processes outsourcing units

1293. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to protect the interest of Indian business processes outsourcing units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) There is no specific proposal to protect the interest of Indian business processes outsourcing units. However, in the wake of economic liberalisation, there is a proposal to amend the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 with a view to facilitate outsourcing of certain activities by an establishment, which would enable such units to face competition and survive in the market.

Child labour of Orissa

1294. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether child labourers are rampant in Orissa; and

(b) whether Government have launched any special schemes to dissuade child labourer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Authentic information on child labour is generated by the decennial census. According to the 1991 census, the number of working children in the State of Orissa is 4,52,394. Figures of the 2001 census are awaited.

(b) The Government of India has been implementing two schemes for the benefit of child labour withdrawn from work, namely the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) and the scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. Under these schemes, special schools/ centres have been set up with provision for non-formal/formal education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and health care etc. So far, NCLPs have been sanctioned in 18 districts in the State of Orissa for coverage of 38,450 children through 690 special schools.

Workers in salt industry in Gujarat

1295. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of workers deployed by the contractors in salt industry in Gujarat;

(b) whether any agreement is signed between the contractors and the management regarding the working conditions and wages of workers;

(c) if so, the total emoluments fixed to be paid to the workers deployed by contractors in different categories;

(d) whether the workers are being paid in accordance with the agreement by the contractors; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) As per the information available, the total number of workers deployed by the contractors in salt industry in Gujarat is 3,961 through 172 contractors.

(b) No Sir.